The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor according to the facts, impartially, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

Truman, Dewey State Views on Labor; Issues Debated in Campaign Kickoff

The following messages from President Harry S. Truman and Governor of New York Thomas E. Dewey, Democratic and Republican candidates respectively, for President of the United States, were prepared especially for the "American Federationist," and appear in the current issue of that official organ of the American Federation of Labor:

By HARRY S. TRUMAN
President of the United States

The party that pressed the Taft-Hartley Act upon working people over my veto, and is responsible for the high cost of living, is asking labor to vote for its candidates in November.

Having inaugurated in the Republican-controlled 80th Congress a blueprint for tearing down 16 years of progress in labor-management relations, the Republicans are now asking labor's support for their antilabor policies.

The 80th Congress was packed by Republican politicians and was completely under the thumb of the Republican party. The Republican candidates cannot disavow the party leadership which dictated these policies. Neither can these policies repudiated in the Republican platform to which the candidates are committed.

The Republicans are asking workers to forget the gains made under a program of broad social and labor legislation that was started in 1933 by the Democratic party, when Republican unemployment, poverty, despair and bankruptcy stalked the land.

The Republicans would like the people to forget that under their administration we had the world's worst depression and that Democratic policies, starting at the very bottom of that depression, lifted the United States from the shadows of despair toward prosperity and human rights, welfare and understanding.

In 1939, after 12 years of Republican administration, union membership had dwindled to 2,857,000. Today, under Democratic policies, it is 15,000,000, the highest in our history. The Republican reaction to growing union strength was to frame the Taft-Hartley Act through the Congress.

In 1933 only 28,700,000 persons were employed, and 12,830,000 workers were jobless.

Today employment exceeds 61,000,000, a record high, and unemployment is only 2,227,000, mostly accounted for by workers changing from one job to another.

In 1933 average earnings of workers employed in manufacturing was $16.73 a week. By June of 1948 this had increased to $58.00, which reached $62.81, although Republican scuttling of the OPA cut deeply into the purchasing power of the weekly pay envelope.

Millions of workers, thrown out of their jobs by the Republican depression which started in October, 1929, had little or no savings, inadequate relief, and soup kitchens and bread lines as the best means of support.

Today large numbers of workers are protected by insurance, provided by the Social Security Act against unemployment and old age. Under this law insurance workers and their widows and families have received payments of $2,841,000,000 to cushion them against economic distress.

One of the big lessons taught by the depression was the need for minimum wage and overtime legislation. The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 was need by placing a floor under wages, a ceiling over straight-time hours and banning oppressive child labor.

The Wagner-Peyser Act set up a nationwide system of free employment offices. Under its provisions the U. S. Employment Service made some 150,000 job placements without cost to the worker or employer in 1933. Last year the placements, about 43,000,000 were made during the war and 20,000,000 since.

People who work for a living will remember all this and forward-looking legislation in their interest. But they are not likely to forget the Taft-Hartley Act which the Republican-controlled 80th Congress passed over the protest of the American Federation of Labor, the Congress of Industrial Organizations, the independent unions and brotherhoods and affiliated local and international unions. Nor will they forget the failure of the Congress to pass needed legislation to protect the health of employees, to relieve the serious unemployment conflict of interests, and to enable unions to keep their membership free of communistic influence.

The Republican-controlled 80th Congress had a field day of antilabor legislation. It passed the Taft-Hartley law, it:

Twice refused to approve reorganization plans for strengthening the manpower functions of the Department of Labor by making the U. S. Employment Service a permanent part of the Department. It did so by including in the bill the device of an appropriation rider was used to transfer the U. S. Employment Service to the Federal Security Agency. The second time action was taken over my veto.

Deprived 750,000 workers of social security benefits, over my veto.

Reduced the appropriations of the Department of Labor by nearly 50 percent. The Bureau of Veterans' Reemployment Rights was cut 50 percent and the Women's Bureau had to close field offices in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis and San Francisco.

Further dispersed the labor functions of the federal government by making an independent agency of the U. S. Conciliation Service, which had been operating successfully in the Department of Labor since 1913. The result has cost the taxpayer more money for the same service.

The Republican-controlled Congress has also refused to do anything to pass the following prolabor legislation for which bills had been introduced and were under consideration:

An adequate bill to provide decent housing for millions of working people.

Raise the minimum wage under the Fair Labor Standards Act from 40 to at least 75 cents an hour and to extend the benefits of the act to millions more who now do not have its protection.

Increase old-age assistance and survivors' benefits to meet the increase in the cost of living and extend the coverage of the Social Security Act to 20,000,000 more workers.

Establish a workers' education extension service in the Labor Department, comparable to the agricultural extension service that has operated so successfully for many years.

Appropriate $6,000,000 for the prevention of industrial accidents which took 17,000 lives and crippled 91,000 workers in 1947.

Pass an equal-pay-for-equal-work law.

In the few years that have passed since the Republicans stifled price controls, the skyrocketing cost of living has risen 71.7 percent higher than the prewar average. Food prices are more than double the prewar average. Still the Republican Congress refused to heed the danger signals of inflation and take effective action to stabilize prices. Instead, High prices continue to take a big bite out of every pay envelope.

That's the record. It tells American workers which political party has their best interests at heart year in and year out.

By THOMAS E. DEWEY
Governor of the State of New York

Representative leaders of American Federation of Labor unions have assured me that the Dewey-Warren ticket will have substantial labor support at the polls November 2. I find their confidence gratifying. I will be equally frank. I interpret it to mean that the great teachings of the founder of the American labor movement, Samuel Gompers, still live and have meaning for those who have inherited his mission.

Gompers laid down a political axiom for labor which has endured the test of time when he said, "Reward your friends and punish your enemies." I am prepared to rest my case upon that basis.

Gompers was against the Socialist experimenters and Communist wreckers of his day, and I believe he would be against them in their modern guise of reformers and saviors. He was for the American system which has given the greatest measure to free labor and free trade unionism.

In the last five years the state of New York has put in place in its government for "party-liners" or fellow-travelers. And your next administration in Washington will not make them any more welcome. The new national administration which takes office next January will never make the mistake of assuming that men like Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Lehman are the leading man. Nor will that administration play into the hands of such elements by so far forgetting the rights of all our citizens as to assume that strikes be broken by drafting men into the Army.

In entering upon high political duties, due to the record of administration in the largest industrial state in the nation during the past six years. We have always taken pride in the fact that the number of industrial disputes here in New York and has now been accorded a life-size place in the community. We have got along well with the AFL people in our state and, as the annual reports of the New York State Federation of Labor will show, we have got along well with us. More than in any other recent years, they have found occasion to point out that New York State has led the country in the field of social progress in which labor has an abiding interest. This progress has been a cooperative undertaking in which we all have had a hand.

In achieving this progress, we have been ever mindful that if any advance is worth fighting for it is worth fighting for in the public interest. There is no class legislation on the statute books of New York. An advantage for organized labor is not for labor alone. It is for the people as a whole.

When labor is adequately insured against the threat of unemployment and against the hazards of old age, the whole economy benefits. When labor relations are handled in a fair, impartial way, with a minimum of coercion and with a maximum opportunity for labor and for management to settle disputes, all the people benefit. Measures to achieve these ends are labor policies only in a technical sense. In fact, they are policies in the broadest public interest.

It is not only labor which benefits in New York from the fact that our state ranks second to none in the peaceful settlement of disputes. Women and children and old in the state is better off because of it.

I look forward to the coming campaign as an opportunity to talk frankly to the country on all of the vital issues before our people. Not the least of these issues is labor. And, although I have had a part in the work of keeping man's language when I talk about the price of meat and how it got where it is and what it can be lowered, and when I talk about the housing for our people, and peace, and security, I think I will be talking most directly to the AFL when I take up the question of management and labor relations.

There are some people who seem to have lost their way in the dense fog of propaganda which has been loosed on the labor front. Familiar objects seem to have taken on a strangeness; much that is true has been made to appear false; some things which do not exist have been mistaken for reality.

I want to dispel that fog and replace hysteria with reason.

And I begin with the profound conviction that the American labor movement is a bulwark of our system of freedom; that union labor is the friend of us are free; and that that freedom can and must be preserved. We must meet the aggressive threat from the fire side of the Communist movement to destroy the German unions and that the Soviet dictatorship has made the labor movement a creature of the state, instruments to terrorize and have enslaved the Russian workers. With these awful lessons before us, we must see to it that we not make the mistake of allowing the same kind of threat effort to make the American labor movement a political company union.

Knowing the AFL as I do, I would say to the rank and file of free men who would sell out the interests of their members and their country for political preferment, there can be no room in the AFL for such opportunists. We could only be a commissar of an organization of slaves.

It is with men who share this fundamental faith with those who accept a foreign ideology, that we will work in Washington. That is why I anticipate in the future what I have experienced in the past, a close cooperative relationship with the responsible leadership of the AFL.

Hoffman Praises Labor For Backing Given ECA

Washington.—Paul G. Hoffman, administrator of the Economic Cooperation Administration, praised the cooperation of the American labor to the Marshall Plan for the economic recovery of Europe.

In a Labor Day message to the ECA labor advisers, Bert M. Jewell and Clinton S. Golden, he said: "The cooperation of labor in the United States has given it more wholehearted support, has worked harder for it, or understood it better than the labor organizations of Europe. What we have to do is to work harder and smarter than ever before. We must join in the mutual objective of recovery—not just recovery to an old standard, but a fundamental recovery, a revitalization of the life of the free peoples of Europe with higher objectives than ever.

"The American people have given a greater participation of the people of Europe for mutual helpfulness. They feel that the future of Europe can best be built on a greater sense of unity, with the progressive removal of restrictions to the flow of goods, services and people.

"The accomplishment of this goal will bring about a revitalization of the free peoples of Europe with higher objectives than ever."

Following is the text of Mr. Hoffman's message:

"On the occasion of Labor Day, it seems to me appropriate to state again the part labor, at home and abroad, can play in the European Recovery Program. The understanding which has been reached in Washington and Paris offices of ECA signifies, we believe, the importance of labor to the success of the first step of the European Recovery Program.

"We can say that since the beginning of the European Recovery Program, as agreed to in United States legislation, labor has given wholehearted support, has worked harder for it, or understood it better than the labor organizations of America. What we have to do is to work harder and smarter than ever before. We must join in the mutual objective of recovery—not just recovery to an old standard, but a fundamental recovery, a revitalization of the life of the free peoples of Europe with higher objectives than ever.

"The American people have given a greater participation of the European Recovery Program—farmers, businessmen, scientists and educators. In all these groups, the international labor movement has made a contribution. Nothing has been your tradition to step across state and country boundaries in your search for ways in which the material and living conditions of labor can be improved.

"America has offered aid—under a four-year program. The time is short. The urgency is great. Our aim is for America to get out of extending extraordinary economic assistance at the end of the four-year term. Among the American motives for the support of this program are the elements of humanity and decency. I say that the program is a stable world, but back of it all comes the recognition that we are all a part of the western civilization and that there cannot be prosperity and peace here unless there is a strengthening in Europe of the source of the great tradition which we have inherited—of freedom, liberty and the dignity of the common man."

LARGE FARM CO-OP TO USE UNION LABEL

Seattle.—The affiliated union of the AFL's Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America announced that it has reached an agreement with the Washington Cooperative Farmers' Association whereby all products of the association will bear the Amalgamated union label.

The cooperative, employing 1,500 workers, has an annual business volume of over $40,000,000 and markets its products throughout the United States and in Hawaii and Alaska.

I. M. Ornburn, secretary-treasurer of the AFL's Union Label Trades Department, hailed the agreement as "excellent proof that not only better labor-management relations can be created but a wonderful example of how teamwork can build good will among farmers and all consumers."

Better Congress Is Possible If Workers Vote Says Green; Hits at Reactionary Leaders

Excerpts From Green's Akron Labor Day Talk

Labor's most immediate and pressing problem is inflation. To many millions of workers, inflation means poverty in the midst of plenty. In a period of high employment, high wages and high production, prosperity remains a myth to the masses of our people. The shocking and continuous increases in the cost of living have robbed them of the means to provide what they need for themselves and their families.

The cold truth is that industry in setting prices at whatever the traffic will bear and at the same time is attempting to lay the blame on labor. For every wage increase, prices are raised by industry in addition to the additional labor cost. This process is rapidly bringing about a maldistribution of incomes and a dangerous shrinkage in the real purchasing power of wage income. If such conditions are allowed to continue unchecked, our national economy will inevitably crash and a major depression will result.

The free enterprise system has proved in the past to be far superior to any other. But free enterprise does not mean anarchy, nor a policy of the devil take the hindmost. It must operate for the benefit of all the people, not only a favored few at the top. Otherwise, our free enterprise system will be digging its own grave and abdicating to Communism.

I am proud to be able to tell you today that the American Federation of Labor, the greatest labor movement in the world, has defeated and repulsed all efforts by the Communists to capture control of our unions. Although they have used every form of deceit imaginable, and spent large sums to invade and wreck our movement, they have never gained a real foothold. The leaders of the American Federation of Labor have stood up unflinchingly against these assaults. They have had an impressive record of success and every one of the attempts of the Communists to use the same strategy in America as they did in Communist-dominated countries—but they have failed miserably and then some control of the government.

Instead of according recognition to our efforts and offering encouragement, big business in America has now set out to destroy labor from within through the Taft-Hartley law. In its very existence lies the maintenance of the free enterprise system, for it is labor that is the first line of defense against Communists, who are the sworn enemies of free enterprise.

Despite all our warnings, the National Association of Manufacturers prevailed upon the 80th Congress to pass the Taft-Hartley Act over the veto of President Truman.

We branded that measure as a "Slave Labor Bill" and now that it has been in operation more than a year, our fears have been fully confirmed.

Time and time again during the past year, workers smarting against a sense of injustice have been forced to the conclusion that the many injunctions issued by the courts under the Taft-Hartley Act. What citizens they have! They enjoy the protection of the Bill of Rights under conditions which they resented or defy the courts and the AFL when it take up the question of repeal or amendment of the Taft-Hartley Act does not square with the principles of American freedom. It must be overwhelmingly repealed.

We cannot counteract and offset all the multitudinous injustices perpetrated by the Taft-Hartley Act with amendments. There is only one certain and complete remedy for that oppressive law and that is its outright repeal.

Let me emphasize as strongly as I can that that remedy lies within your hands—the hands of the millions of wage earners in our country. All you have to do is to discharge your duty as American citizens by registering and voting in the November elections.

The 80th Congress, which passed the Taft-Hartley Act, which placed property rights above human rights, which failed to act for people on such vital issues as high prices, housing, minimum wages and social security improvements, was elected in 1946 by only one-third of the qualified voters in America. If all our people make certain that they register and vote this fall, we can elect a new Congress and give it a clear mandate for progress. Let our keynote for this Labor Day of 1948 be "Use Your Vote!"

Workers Urged to Vote To Avoid Repetition Of 1946 Election

Akron, Ohio.—Keynoting the American workers' observance of Labor Day, AFL President William Green declared that it lies within the power of the working men and women of this nation "to make a better Congress with a new and more progressive outlook."

Warning against a repetition of what happened in 1946, when only one-third of the qualified voters in America" elected the reactionary 80th Congress, the AFL leader adopted for the Labor Day theme the slogan, "Use Your Vote!"

Mr. Green spoke to a crowd of over 20,000 persons gathered in Summit Beach Park here to celebrate labor's own national holiday. In addition, his address was carried over the nation-wide network of the National Broadcasting Company to additional millions of listeners.

The AFL leader lashed out vigorously at the forces which have sought to crustify working men and women on the statute books of these United States in the name of so-called "free" labor legislation. Mr. Green declared that the Taft-Hartley law and its failure to act on such vital issues as housing, higher minimum wages and social security improvements.

Mr. Green asserted that the nation is gripped by the "economic curse of inflation" because of a "lack of restraint and foresight on the part of leaders of big business who set prices, and because of the lack of statesmanship and responsibility on the part of the leaders of Congress."

He riddled the old argument advanced by business leaders that high prices have been caused by rising wages and declared that every wage increase, "prices are boosted far out of proportion to the additional labor cost."

"It might be easy for us to feel sorry for the poor, unfortunate corporations," Mr. Green continued, "but for the fact that official records tell an entirely different story. Corporate profits, after taxes, are now 272 percent above the 1939 level."

Calling upon the government to sponsor legislation aimed at stabilizing business and agriculture representative to collective bargaining and the economic security of our country, Mr. Green declared that the greatest responsibility of business is "to halt the ever-rising spiral of prices and practical reduction in prices."

Speaking of the provisions of the Taft-Hartley law, Mr. Green said that a recent decision of the Supreme Court had confirmed labor's fears that the law was "a slave labor bill from beginning to end."

The injunction provisions of the law, he said, handed upon labor the alternative of "working as a slave or quitting your job." "Not square with the principles of American freedom," Mr. Green declared, "nor with voluntary servitude."

As a glaring example of the injustice of the Taft-Hartley labor procedure, Mr. Green cited the case of the Kansas City Court in which the federal government, through the National Labor Relations Board, is seeking "to forbid a single individual, a worker, a member of a union who quit their jobs in Chicago."

"That means," he said, "that to tempt by our government to break, to coerce, to intimidate the wives and children of the strikers.

"The American workers," he said, will resist such tactics and rush to the defense of their fellow workers, Mr. Green declared that such intentional efforts to enforce the Taft-Hartley law are, however, insufficient to break the spirit or the shackles of the obnoxious legislation.

"The fight for its repeal must and complete remedy for that oppressive law lies in the outright repeal," Mr. Green asserted.

Mr. Green further said that labor's program for higher minimum wages, improvements in the social security system, and the enactment of a housing program to guarantee decent homes "social security not only for the aged but for the whole people. The enterprise system as well." He declared.

"From an immediate as well as a long-range standpoint, the peace of the world depends upon the power of America to guarantee peace. To prevent war, America must remain strong. We urge that the policies instituted by the 80th Congress are sapping the strength of the nation and the American people. Those policies must be reversed."

Green Predicts European Workers Will Resist Domination by Russia

Washington.—AFL President William Green declared that the AFL is fully confident that the workers of Europe "will not be enticed into becoming slave laborers and cannon-fodder by the Communists," but will work their own way toward "peace and democracy."

In a special Labor Day message to the workers of America on the world situation, Mr. Green declared that to help them accomplish this end "the United States are contributing cheerfully and willingly . . . to provide aid and assistance to the people of Europe."

Following is the text of the AFL leader's message:

"On this Labor Day 1948, I extend the fraternal greetings of the workers of America to the workers of Europe.

"We have our own problems, serious ones, but our chief concern is the preservation of the democratic way of life because it has produced a high standard of living without impairing our freedoms. We are opposed to Communism because it practices force and violence, because it feeds on hunger and despair and because it extinguishes individual liberty. The free workers are shocked by the slave labor policies of the totalitarian states. Nevertheless, we are appalled by the warlike and aggressive policies of Soviet Russia.

"The American Federation of Labor is fully confident that the workers of Europe will seek their salvation through peace and democracy. They will not be enticed into becoming slave-laborers and cannon-fodder for the Communists.

"Toward this end, American workers are cheerfully and willingly contributing a huge proportion of their hard-earned wages, through taxes, to help the workers of Europe. The people of Europe who are struggling so heroically to save their way of life look age left by the war and to regain their economic, social and political independence.

"We in America are wedded to the democratic way of life because it has produced a high standard of living without impairing our freedoms. We are opposed to Communism because it practices force and violence, because it feeds on hunger and despair and because it extinguishes individual liberty. The free workers are shocked by the slave labor policies of the totalitarian states. Nevertheless, we are appalled by the warlike and aggressive policies of Soviet Russia.

"The American Federation of Labor is fully confident that the workers of Europe will seek their salvation through peace and democracy. They will not be enticed into becoming slave-laborers and cannon-fodder for the Communists."

CANADIAN UNIT MERGES WITH AFL's SEAFARERS

Montreal.—The Canadian Lake Seamen's Union announced it has arranged to merge with the AFL's Seafarers' International Union.

The Canadian union, formed over a year ago, broke away from the Canadian Seamen's Union because it charged that CSU was Communist-dominated. Since that time the two Canadian labor organizations have been bitter antagonists.

The settlement was released through the office of Frank Hall, vice-president of the AFL's Brotherhood of Railway Clerks, said the contract-party parties had reached agreement on complete answer to the difficulties of the strike situation on the Great Lakes."

T-H LAW DISCUSSION ON RADIO SEPT. 13TH

Washington.—A half-hour roundtable discussion of the Taft-Hartley law will be presented September 13 over the nation-wide network of the American Broadcasting Company by the AFL's International Brotherhood of Boilermakers.

Participating in the discussion will be Charles J. MacGowan, president of the union; Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin, and Cliff Langdale, prominent labor attorney.

Originating over Philadelphia, the broadcast will be carried over 250 ABC stations and will be heard from 8-8:30 p.m., Eastern Time; from 7-7:30 p.m., Central and Mountain Time; and from 7:30-8 p.m., Western Time.

AFL AIRLINE WORKERS WIN NEW PAY BOOST

Chicago.—Negotiations were concluded for the renewal of the employment agreement between Chicago and Southern Airlines and its communication operators representing the Air Carrier Communication Operators Association, affiliated with the AFL's Air Line Pilots Association.

The new contract gives a $26 across the board increase to all C&S employees in 4 major classifications: Teletype, radiotelephone, radiotelegraph and lead radio operators.

AFL MUSICIANS UNION EXTENDS FILM CO.'s PACT

New York.—James C. Petrillo, president of the American Federation of Musicians, agreed to extend present contracts with the nation's major film companies for 2 years without changes in wages, hours or working conditions, on condition that the contracts be renegotiated at any time on 60 days' notice.

A statement announcing the agreement said Petrillo told the producers the union was taking cognizance temporarily of existing economic conditions at home and abroad in the motion picture industry.

Negotiations began a week ago on contracts expiring Aug. 31 and affect 500 regularly employed musicians. Their present rate of pay is $13.20 an hour, with a minimum of 2 hours of work per call.

AFL TRUCK DRIVERS WIN $6 PAY INCREASE

New York.—Over 40,000 truck drivers and helpers here will receive a wage increase of $6 under the terms of a new 2-year contract reached by Joseph Ryan, AFL Teamsters Vice-pres. and 5 employer groups.

The pact, the details of which is pushed to ratification by the parties, platform workers an hourly raise of $1.50; 2-ton, $65.90; 3-ton, $66.90; 4-ton, $67.90; 5-ton, 68.90, and 6-ton trucks, $71.40. Tractor-trailer drivers go from $71.40 to $77.40 if they unload shipments. Where they do not unload, their rate is increased from $66.40 to $71.40.

All scales are based on a 40-hour week.

Note to Editors

In view of the Labor Day holiday and in order to give full and prompt coverage to Labor Day news, the Tuesday edition of the AFL News Service is being issued in advance of the regular publication date.

The supplement edition of Friday, September 3, is being omitted.

The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and editorial interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, President — WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1948 — GEORGE MEANY, Secretary-Treasurer

LABOR'S GOAL! To Repeal Taft-Hartley Law

British Union Leader, Head of WFTU, Says Communists Captured Labor Body

Margate, England. — The World Federation of Trade Unions was denounced before the British Trades Union Congress here by Arthur Deakin, British union leader, and president of the Soviet-dominated world labor body.

In an address to the annual meeting of the BTUC, Deakin declared that the WFTU has been completely captured by the Communists and is being used as an agency to carry out the policies of the Cominform and as a platform for advancing Soviet propaganda. He charged that WFTU agents are busy stirring up trouble in Malaya, other parts of Asia, and in Africa.

Deakin's remarks coincided with the traditional position of the American Federation of Labor which has consistently fought the WFTU and exposed it as a "tool of the Kremlin." Unlike the British labor movement and the CIO, which have participated in the WFTU, the AFL refused to become affiliated with the organization and has worked diligently for its downfall.

Mr. Deakin's impassioned denunciation came when the Communist factions within the British unions sought vainly to persuade the congress to take stands against United States aid to Europe, and against the western elements in the WFTU that they said were trying to destroy its unity.

A resolution urging support of the WFTU was defeated easily by a show of hands. On all other issues, the Communists also were defeated overwhelmingly by votes ranging from 15 to 25 to 1.

Veterans of many trade union congresses said they seldom had seen such a bitter attitude by British labor toward the Communists as was displayed by a majority of the 800 delegates representing nearly 8,000,000 organized workers.

It was said that the explanation was the rapidly developing situation in Berlin as well as the examples of the effects of Communist activity on labor movements in France and Italy. Many responsible union leaders here tonight predicted that a thoroughgoing "purge" of Communists from the British labor movement would be attempted before the year was out.

In his address, Mr. Deakin said that the two unions that sponsored the WFTU resolution, the Amalgamated Union of Operative Bakers, Confectioners and Allied Workers, and the Tobacco Workers Union were trying to put him "on the spot."

The Communists in the two unions had pressed the resolution, he said, so that when he attended the meeting of the World Federation executive bureau in Paris the Communists could say that he did not speak for British labor.

"The sponsors of the resolution, who take their orders from Moscow, would like to see that happen," Mr. Deakin said. "Let's don't delude ourselves on that score."

An attempt by an official of the Bakers Union to engage in a tirade against United States aid to Europe met such a storm of protest that he retired from the rostrum with his speech uncompleted.

The unions that sponsored the Communist measures are among the smallest, from a membership standpoint, in the British labor movement.

On The Political Front

Stassen Backs T-H Law In Opening Address Of GOP Campaign

Detroit.—Harold E. Stassen keynoted the Republican Presidential campaign here with an address in reply to the Labor Day speeches given here and in other Michigan cities by President Truman.

Speaking before a less than capacity crowd in the Masonic Temple here, Mr. Stassen defended the Taft-Hartley law and pointed to the record of Thomas E. Dewey, the Republican candidate, as proof that "he will be fair to labor."

Mr. Stassen maintained that labor has made gains under the Taft-Hartley law, and has "fared better than it did before August, 1947," when the law became effective. He said:

"In short, labor has fared better under the broad public interest approach of this legislation than it did under the President's postwar narrow labor policy.

"In the face of these plain facts, why does the President make these extreme complaints about the law—a law which was passed over his veto by a two-thirds majority of the members of Congress and by a majority vote among the members of his own party in Congress?

"Why does he complain about a law which provides for 80 days to settle a dispute affecting the whole country without a strike? Why does he complain about a law which requires financial reports of union officials, which opposes secondary boycotts, which reduces clashes between unions, but which does not take away the authority to strike, nor prevent successful bargaining nor fair contracts? Clearly, it is because he hopes to secure a big political dividend by a cheap, political complaint.

"But every day additional thousands of members of organized labor are realizing that what the law has done is to require a few labor officials to be less arbitrary with their own members and with management. It has required labor's leadership to be more thorough, more fair, more conscientious in their bargaining and negotiations without strikes.

"The law should be constantly studied. All legislation in the field of labor is dealing with a rapidly changing, shifting, dynamic problem in our economy. Laws concerning labor and management require constant attention, change and study. I have made it clear from the first day of its passage, that taken as a whole I favored this law; that I would oppose its repeal; but that I believed it required some amendments.

"I pledge to you that in the months and years ahead, I will continue to oppose unfair and antilabor provisions, to seek a fair balance between capital and labor, and to insist on maintaining a dynamic people's capitalism in America. I am confident that the majority of the members in Congress will take this course."

Truman Raps T-H Law; Urges Big Labor Vote To Beat Reaction

Detroit.—President Truman attacked the Taft-Hartley law and warned of danger ahead for labor if reactionaries are reelected in November.

In a series of Labor Day addresses delivered in 6 Michigan cities before an estimated throng of 500,000, Mr. Truman renewed his attacks on the 80th Congress and urged workers to turn out a large vote to insure the election of a new Congress friendly to labor.

Addressing 125,000 people who jammed Cadillac Square here for a Labor Day celebration sponsored jointly by the AFL's Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor and the CIO, the President lashed out at the Taft-Hartley law which, he said, placed "a dangerous weapon into the hands of the big corporations."

Emphasizing the fact that the antilabor measure was passed over his veto, Mr. Truman declared:

"The union men with whom I have talked tell me that labor is just beginning to feel the effects of the Taft-Hartley law. And you and I know that the Taft-Hartley law is only a foretaste of what you will get if the Republican reaction is allowed to continue to grow.

"Important Republican newspapers have already announced in plain language: the Republicans in Congress are preparing further and stronger measures against labor.

"If the congressional elements that made the Taft-Hartley law are allowed to remain in power, and if these elements are further encouraged by the election of a Republican President, you men of labor can expect to be hit by a steady barrage of body blows. And if you stay at home, as you did in 1946, and keep these reactionaries in power, you deserve every blow you get.

"Not only the labor unions, but all men and women who work are in danger. And the danger is greatest for those who do not belong to unions. If anything, the blows will fall most severely on the white-collar workers and the unorganized workers."

Mr. Truman criticized the "damn labor" attitude held by many American citizens, an attitude which, he said, "does not become any citizen of this country." The President continued:

"It is time that every American recognized what our fathers knew—that it is an honorable thing to work with your hands.

"Our basic social freedoms can be traced largely to the fact that labor had its birth of real freedom in the United States of America. That is why our fathers came to America—to find the country where the man who worked with his hands was as good as the next man.

"It is time that all Americans realized that the place of labor is side by side with the business man and with the farmer, and not one degree lower."

Report Stresses Basic Causes Of Labor-Management Peace

NPA Analyzes Reasons For Industrial Peace In Paper Industry

Washington.—That industrial peace is the product of sincere cooperation between employers and unions in the collective bargaining process is emphasized in a report released by the National Planning Association on labor-management relations in the Pacific Coast Pulp and Paper Industry.

In its first case study in a series of 15 devoted to the topic, "The Causes of Industrial Peace," the NPA reported on the relations between employers and 2 AFL unions representing nearly 95 percent of the firms and workers in the industry in the states of California, Oregon and Washington.

The story is one of phenomenal success which has brought about a 14-year strike-free period of successful industrial relations. It comes as a bit of refreshing evidence that collective bargaining can work well. It serves to emphasize that the strikes and strife reported in the press are not the rule, but the exception. It points the way for others and offers an example for the benefit of both businessmen and labor leaders plagued by industrial warfare.

The unions involved in the study were the AFL's Brotherhood of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers and the Brotherhood of Paper Makers. The Crown Zellerbach Corporation, since it is the largest firm in the West Coast industry, was dealt with specifically in the report.

A special NPA committee, headed by Clinton S. Golden and composed of 28 other business, labor and professional leaders, declared that one factor leading to the successful labor-management relations in the industry is an active striving for peace by employers who believe in the principles and actual practice of true collective bargaining, and by unions who accept private ownership and operation of industry.

The committee cited the following specific practices which have contributed to harmonious relations in the industry:

1. The parties have largely relied upon themselves to settle controversies without resort to third parties.
2. The unions have felt institutionally secure from management attacks. Negotiations have been conducted without undue delay.
3. The parties have shown a disposition for mutual discussion of a wide range of subjects.
4. The contracts have been observed religiously by both parties.
5. The representatives of both sides have shown a high degree of respect for each other.
6. The workers have benefited from relatively good wages and security. Turnover and absenteeism have been low.
7. Joint collusive actions against competitors or purchasers have not occurred.

Summing up the reasons for the success of the employers and unions in getting along with one another, the committee noted the favorable factors of a homogenous work force, interesting jobs, and regular employment in a profitable and expanding industry. But the essential element of the success, the committee felt, was the social skill of the parties to the bargaining, their willingness to work out a mutually acceptable sharing of power and rights, and their attempts to preserve the maximum amount of freedom for the individual within an ordered industrial society.

AFL Hails Federal 10-Year Health Plan To Make Medical Care Available to All

Washington.—The 10-year program for improvement of the nation's health formulated by Federal Security Administrator Oscar E. Ewing and approved by President Truman was hailed by the American Federation of Labor.

Nelson H. Cruikshank, the AFL's director of social insurance activities, declared the plan for improving hospital and medical facilities and for providing a national system of health insurance was a step in the right direction and completely in accord with the policies long advocated by the AFL.

The federal report, which evaluates the nation's total health resources and recommends a basic federal state-community action program, drew heavily upon the findings and recommendations made last May by the National Health Assembly, a forum of more than 800 professional and community leaders called for the purpose of studying health problems.

Major proposals of the report call for the use of federal subsidies to step up the supply of health personnel and facilities, and the adoption of a federal system of health insurance.

Commenting on the necessity for an insurance plan to improve health standards, Mr. Ewing reported:

"All our analyses of the problems of health have brought us again and again up against a stone wall barrier, the inability of millions of the people to meet the costs of health services."

The report points out that this inability to meet the costs of adequate medical care not only impairs the health of millions of people, but it also acts to restrict the construction of hospitals, the expansion of medical schools and the development of needed medical services.

As an indication of the extent of the inability to pay for medical care, the report states that only 20 percent of our population are able to afford all the medical care needed, and that half of all American families find it hard, if not impossible, to pay for even routine care, even through health insurance on a voluntary basis.

Voluntary plans cannot do the job that has to be done, the report concluded.

In addition to the expansion of medical manpower and facilities, and the adoption of a health insurance plan, the report urged action leading to: (1) the improvement of mental health facilities, (2) effective measures to control chronic diseases, (3) rehabilitation services for the handicapped, (4) the provision of complete services for children and mothers, (5) the increase in expenditures for medical research, and (6) the development of citizen health councils in every state and community.

The report estimates that the cost of the program by 1960 should involve expenditures by the states and communities of $1,795,000,000 and by the federal government of $2,312,000,000. The 1960 federal outlay would be about double the amount now expended for health, the report says.

Dubinsky Urges Protection Of German Trade Unionists

New York.—David Dubinsky, president of the AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers Union, urged the greatest possible protection for democratic trade unionists in Germany who are waging a battle against Communist dictatorship.

Reporting to ILGWU leaders on his recent European trip during which he served as American delegate to the Marshall Plan conference of European labor representatives, Mr. Dubinsky said there was grave danger that the Soviet Union would "grab complete control of Berlin by violence, bluff or bullying."

"The overwhelming majority of trade unionists in Berlin, as well as in other sectors of Germany, are fighting the Russian dictatorship bravely and effectively," he said. "They are fighting against terrific odds because they have taken our words seriously, because we have time and again declared our determination to stand for democracy and against all totalitarianism in Germany.

"These German trade unionists, a great many of whom have spent years in Hitler's concentration camps, have stuck their necks out, and we must not let them down.

"If we continue to appease Communist aggression, if our appeasement should lead to our being pushed out of Berlin, we will be sacrificing the very people who today are fighting on our side.

"If we act in such a way as to allow the Communists to humiliate the German trade union leaders, we will not only be discrediting ourselves in the eyes of all Europe but there will be no chance for the European Recovery Plan to save Europe from Communist domination.

"We demand the fullest protection and safeguarding of the militant trade unionists who are today the backbone of democracy in Germany and the best friends the American people have in that war-shattered country."

Mr. Dubinsky said that in Italy the Christian Democratic trade unions already had left the Communist-controlled Italian Confederation of Labor and predicted that the democratic socialist forces led by Saragat and other democratic elements would do so sooner or later. There was good reason to believe that before long Italian labor would develop a national non-Communist trade union movement like the Force Ouvriere in France, he added.

Labor News Press Coverage Rapped By AFL Spokesman

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—A major public relations problem of the American labor movement is the treatment accorded by the daily press to labor-management stories. As far as the press is concerned, labor news means a strike, picket-line, dishonest labor officials, violence. The constructive side of trade unionism is rarely mentioned or, at best, relegated to a few paragraphs on an inside page.

This problem was brilliantly underscored by Martin T. Lacey, president of the New York Central Trades and Labor Council, recently in a letter to the New York Times. That newspaper failed to publish the letter. In it, Lacey specifically criticized "the consistent handling in the press of a strike, and the casual disregard of the many hundreds and thousands of agreements reached through collective bargaining."

"And it seems to make no difference to the press," said Lacey, "how important or significant is the agreement, or how trivial and inconsequential the strike."

Lacey documented his charge by comparing the newspaper treatment accorded a one-day strike at the Cotton Exchange involving 100 employes and the signing of a collective bargaining agreement by the New York dress industry and the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, an industry affecting 80,000 workers.

"The loss to the community from the Cotton Exchange strike was comparatively small. The tremendous gain to the community through the uninterrupted manufacture of women's garments by 80,000 employes cannot be adequately measured.

"But the New York Sun saw fit to report the Cotton Exchange strike under a 4-column headline on the right-hand side of its front page. Obscured almost from view was a 1-paragraph note on the settlement involving the 80,000 employes in the dress industry."

Addressing the editor of the New York Times, Lacey wrote:

"Your own newspaper carried a 2-column headline on the front page announcing the settlement of the Cotton Exchange strike. But you considered the dress settlement worthy only of your second section in the same paper.

"Is it any wonder that Congress is stirred to hysteria about labor when the leading newspapers in this country play up on their front pages a comparatively minor strike and almost disregard the successful consummation of collective bargaining in an industry that has repeatedly proved its ability to settle industrial disputes without strikes?"

'Little T-H Law' Is Invalid Says Michigan State Court

Lansing, Mich.—The Michigan State Supreme Court ruled that the antilabor Bonine-Tripp law, known as the "little Taft-Hartley law," was invalid.

The law, which has been under bitter attack by organized labor in this industrial state, provided for compulsory arbitration of disputes in public utilities and hospitals. It also set up a system of prestrike elections and bargaining procedure for nonutility disputes and prohibited mass picketing.

The court held that the section providing to compulsory arbitration of utility strikes was "inseparably involved in the entire act" and that the whole 1947 law—the object of bitter attack by labor unions—was invalid.

Justice Emerson R. Boyles confirmed that it was the court's intention to declare the entire law unconstitutional. The court ruled that the attempt of the state legislature to name circuit judges as members of arbitration boards violated the state constitution by conferring nonjudicial duties upon such jurists.

The decision was handed down in a case involving a CIO union against Circuit Judge Paul V. Gadola, of Flint. The court issued a writ of prohibition, forbidding Judge Gadola from sitting as an arbiter in a labor dispute at the Flint Trolley Coach Co.

Federal Income Tax Cut Held Factor Leading to Possible Economic Bust

New York.—The recent reduction in federal income taxes, while stimulating the nation's business boom, may be one of the contributing factors now operating to bring on a future bust.

This was the conclusion reached by Arthur A. Elder, consultant to the AFL's Committee on Taxation, in the second of a series of six articles written for and distributed by the Workers Education Bureau of America on the general topic, "Organized Labor's Stake in Tax Policy."

Mr. Elder declared that at a time when it is vitally necessary to maintain a progressive tax structure, it was economically unwise to reduce federal income tax revenue by 15 percent, especially when the bulk of the savings went to taxpayers with large incomes. He said:

"Economics generally recognize this and point out that during the '20s similar tax cuts led to an accumulation of idle savings and investment capital that was one of the factors that brought on the depression of the early '30s.

"What happened before is happening again. Every move in the direction of shifting the tax burden to payers of excise and sales taxes by relieving income tax payers is a move toward depression or bust. Before the recent tax reduction approximately 70 percent of all taxes paid—federal, state, and local—were taxes on income, based on the ability to pay. Since the reduction, the proportion is much closer to 60 percent. Yet plans are ready for further cuts in income taxes at the federal level, and there is continued emphasis on additional taxes on consumers at the state and local levels."

Mr. Elder asserted that events since the income tax reduction took effect refute the arguments advanced in Congress in support of the measure which claimed that a tax cut would "increase purchasing power, encourage investment, and stimulate production." The tax experts said:

"1. Purchasing power has increased for some people, but prices have also increased. They are still increasing, so that, for lower income groups particularly, any possible tax saving has been more than wiped out.

"2. How about the much advertised need for new investment? It would be very difficult for any supporters of the tax cuts to prove that any considerable portion of the $5,000,000,000 in tax savings has gone into needed investment. Statistics combine to show that large-scale capital expansion and improvement are being financed out of corporate reserves or with funds taken out of high war and postwar earnings. In other words, major capital expansion is now financed internally with little or no demand for the investment dollars of the man-in-the-street.

"3. Finally, of course, against the argument that tax reduction would stimulate production, the cold, hard fact looms that total production is remaining practically constant without any increase from month to month. And it is also generally known that unless and until there is an increase in the supply of basic commodities, such as steel, coal, and oil, production in other fields cannot increase."

WOMEN FARM WORKERS NEAR ONE-FIFTH OF U. S. TOTAL

Washington.—More than 1,750,000 women were engaged in agricultural work in July, according to Census Bureau reports. They were one-tenth of all employed women and nearly one-fifth of all agricultural workers. From a peak in June of more than 2 million, the number of women farm workers had declined by about 330,000. Women in nonagricultural employment had increased by 82,000, numbering 15,819,000 in July.

AFL LEADER SAYS 'REDS' TRYING TO SABOTAGE ERP

Margate, England. — Edward J. Volz, president of the AFL's Photo-Engravers Union, charged that Communist-controlled labor organizations are attempting to sabotage the Marshall Plan.

Speaking before the annual meeting of the British Trades Union Congress in his capacity as fraternal delegate from the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Volz called for cooperation between the British and American labor organizations to counter the efforts of the Communists. He said:

"If the free trade union organizations of Britain and America cooperate and participate actively in the administration of ERP, then economic reconstruction, higher purchasing power and improved living conditions will be assured."

AFL's RAILWAY DEPT. ANNOUNCES CHANGES

Chicago.—James M. Burns, secretary-treasurer of the AFL's Railway Employes' Department, resigned his position to become vice-president of the Sheet Metal Workers International Association.

To succeed Burns, the department's executive council selected Michael Fox, who formerly served as assistant to the president, Fred N. Aten.

AFL's AUTO WORKERS WIN NEW CONTRACT

Cincinnati.—Local Union 868, affiliated with the AFL's United Automobile Workers, reported the signing of a new contract with the Ohio National Company. Among the many gains won by the union were wage increases ranging from a minimum of 10 cents to a high of 25 cents an hour. Six paid holidays are also a part of the agreement. A union shop has been included, contingent upon the outcome of a National Labor Relations Board referendum.

AFL on the Air

Listen each week to "Summer Serenade," the AFL 15-minute radio show featuring an all-string orchestra under the direction of Glenn Osser and brief educational messages of interest to labor and the general public.

Time: Tuesday evenings at 10:45 p.m. EDT.

Network: American Broadcasting Co.

Consult your local newspapers for the exact time of the broadcast in your community.

ITU Denies Breach of Injunction; Charges NLRB Supports Publishers

Indianapolis.—Fighting for its life against the attacks of Robert N. Denham, general counsel for the National Labor Relations Board, acting under the Taft-Hartley law, the AFL's International Typographical Union denied that it has violated an injunction issued last March by Federal Judge Luther M. Swygert.

In answer to Denham's petition that the union be held in contempt of court and prohibited from paying benefits to striking Chicago printers, the ITU contended that the government is supporting demands of publishers on issues not covered by the injunction.

The NLRB charged that the ITU's contract demands contained clauses that would discriminate against employes who were not members of the union.

The union reply, filed in court here by Gerhard P. Van Arkel and Henry Kaiser, ITU attorneys, said:

"In none of the cities mentioned in the petition have the clauses in question been the focal point of negotiation or the motivating factor underlying any strike. In each instance where an agreement has not yet been reached, the employer has refused to bargain further on matters which are not involved in the instant proceeding.

"It follows that the petition in effect solicits the power of this court in support of the adamant position of publishers on points which are foreign to this court's decree."

Chicago publishers contend the union is insisting on a virtual conspiracy to violate the closed-shop prohibitions of the Taft-Hartley law.

The union contended that the competency clauses it seeks in contracts were designed only to maintain the standards of the craft. The practical effect of such clauses is to require job applicants to pass an examination if they have not taken the union-approved apprentice training course.

"The clause in question," the union argued, "reflects the fact that before one can become a journeyman member of the ITU one must have demonstrated one's competency by completing a 6-year apprenticeship and by passing a series of examinations. * * * This contract clause in no way was intended to, or does in fact, discriminate unlawfully in favor of ITU members merely by providing that journeyman membership in the union is proof of competency without further training or examination.

"The provision of the clause defining journeymen to include those 'who have completed approved apprentice training as provided in this contract' clearly and necessarily means that any person who has completed apprentice training is presumed competent without further examination, regardless of whether he ever assumes full union membership or abandons union membership, thus further demonstrating that actual competency is the real test of eligibility for journeyman employment under the clause in question."

ILGWU SENDS OFFICERS TO HARVARD FOR STUDY

New York.—The AFL's International Ladies Garment Workers Union designated 4 of its younger officers from various parts of the nation to attend the 13-week Harvard University Trade Union Fellowship Course in Cambridge, Mass.

ILGWU students have taken part in the Harvard Trade Union Course uninterruptedly since it was started 7 years ago.

The purpose of the course, sponsored by the Littauer School of Public Administration, the Graduate School of Business Administration and by the Department of Economics of Harvard University and launched in the fall of 1942, is to "provide training for executive responsibility and to help union officers play more useful roles in the labor movement."

AFGE ELECTS YADEN AS NEW PRESIDENT

Philadelphia.—The AFL's American Federation of Government Employes, in convention here, elected James G. Yaden president of the organization.

Mr. Yaden, a Civil Service Commission official, was elected on the third ballot, defeating his rival, James B. Burns, former president of the organization, by a vote of 13,444 to 10,117.

On motion of Mr. Burns, who made a strong plea for unity in the organization and pledged his support to the new administration, the vote electing Mr. Yaden was made unanimous.